Christ Church

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

1854 · 1954

C E L E B R A T I O N

of the

100th ANNIVERSARY

of

C H R I S T C H U R C H

Franklin and Orange Streets

Media, Pennsylvania

September 26th to October 3rd

1 9 5 4

The Rev. William J. Alberts, Rector

100th Anniversary Committee

Francis R. Austin

William Turner

Willian Wasche

Murray Campbell

Mrs. Harold White

THE HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH

The year 1954 is an especially important one in the history of Christ Church, Media, Pennsylvania, for it marks the end of the congregation's first century and the beginning of the second. A century - or two centuries, for that matter - is but a short time in the long history of Christ's whole Church. But in a young country like ours, itself only a few human generations old, a hundred years of worshipping together is a long and proud record, and bodes very well for our future together in Christian fellowship.

It is typical of constructive and spiritual fellowships that are destined to endure that they seldom take full form all at once and without difficulties. To that general rule Christ Church - again like Christ's whole Church - is no exception. In its first few years of existence, beginning in the Summer of 1853, the congregation had no church building of its own, and was able to worship together only through the hospitality of the Media Court House and the local Methodist Church. It is noteworthy that even in those unsettled times, the first Episcopal Sunday School in Media was established among the students of Brooke Hall Seminary. The congregation had as yet no Rector of its own: these early activities were made possible by the Rev. L. P. W. Balch, D.D., Rector of Holy Trinity Church in West Chester, the Rev. G. E. Hare and the Rev. B. S. Huntington.

On August 26, 1856, the Delaware County Court issued a charter incorporating the Parish under the title, the Rector and Vestry of Christ Church, Media. However, mistakes were found in the charter of incorporation; these were corrected some time before May 11, 1857. On that date the corporation was fully organized as a Parish and the first Vestry meeting was held in the office of Charles Manley, a Media businessman. The Rev. Samuel Hazelhurst, D.D., was elected Rector. On May 28, 1857, having made application and conformed to all the requirements of the Canon Law, Christ Church was admitted into union with the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

The first care of the congregation, led by its Vestry and Rector, was to provide its own house of worship. The land for the Church building and Rectory, at the present location at South Orange and Franklin Streets,

was donated by the Senior Warden, the Hon. H. Jones Brooke, and his wife. The cornerstone of the Church was laid on July, 5, 1858, with the Rt. Rev. Alfred Lee, D.D. Bishop of Delaware, officiating. The original Church building still stands. The architect, Samuel Sloane, of Chester, designed it to be made of native stone and the church is noted for its fine acoustics. Indicative of the care and soundness with which it was built is the fact that the original roof served until its replacement in 1945 - eighty-seven years later.

On June 21, 1860, the Church building having been completed and being free of debt, it was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter, D.D., Bishop of Pennsylvania, assisted by Bishop Lee of Delaware.

Some insight into how the Church managed to qualify for the happy description, "being free of debt", may be gained from this entry in the Vestry minutes just ten days before the consecration:

"Whereas, the Ladies constituting the Missionary Society of Christ Church, Media, through their earnest & self-sacrificing exertions have succeeded in liquidating the existing debts upon the Church edifice —

Therefore Resolved, that the Rector & Vestry of said Church in behalf of the congregation tender their thanks to the Ladies for their generous aid through which they have been relieved of every pecuniary embarrassment & enabled to have the edifice consecrated to the worship of Almighty God."

The language is ceremonious but its meaning is human and clear; in the decades since there have been many occasions for gratitude to "the Ladies" - as well as to the men. While it has received its share of generous gifts, Christ Church has never had the easy fortune to be "a rich church". It has instead had the superior fortune to include and embrace all kinds and conditions of people. The Church plant and its activities stand as living evidence of their shared sacrifice and labor.

It was sometime in 1873 that the present Rectory was built, as a gift of J. Herman Hoeckly. When repairs became necessary many decades later, it was discovered that the casements had been made of solid mahogany - a witness to the care with which the building was built.

In 1876 the congregation undertook a program of "beautification" for which it raised a total of $9,000, and of which we still enjoy the benefits. Conspicuous

among the improvements were a pipe organ and the tower at the northwest corner. In addition, the young ladies of Brooke Hall contributed the present Chancel Rail and marble font. More pews were added soon after. The additional pews served the dual purpose of accommodating more parishioners and providing more income, for pews in those days were rented. This custom of renting pews, once both general and necessary as a source of assured income, has long since vanished from most churches, including Christ Church. Today people sit where they will and give what they can.

The turn of the century, and the years immediately following, saw the beginning of several of these long periods of service that are always so affectionately gratifying to a congregation. In 1899, for instance, Peter Parker began a term as Sexton that was to last thirty years. The present Sexton, John Kent, has been serving over twenty-five years. In 1905, Richard H. Crockford began a period as Organist and Choirmaster that was to continue for forty-one years. And in 1909, the Rev. Harry Ransom began the longest period as Rector in the Church's history - twenty years. The present Rector, the Rev. William James Alberts, succeeded the Rev. Harvey D. Butterfield on Whitsunday of 1941, and has been Rector longer than any other incumbent except the Rev. Harry Ransom.

As the brief account above indicates, Christ Church's first century has been one of conscious and rewarded effort to build both the material and spiritual aspects of congregational fellowship and worship. Embracing as it does the aftermath of the longest economic depression in history, the strains of a World War that began in 1939 and has never really ceased, and the anxieties of a decade of atomic and inflationary worries, the period of the present Rector's stewardship is an inspiring example of what a congregation working together can accomplish under difficulties.

It is no secret that Father Alberts accepted the 1941 call to Media only after long and soul-searching prayer for guidance and, frankly, strength. The prospect did in fact have its deeply discouraging aspects. The long and withering economic depression had by no means spared the members of the Christ Church congregation; through lack of funds and available effort the Church building, a basically fine and substantial structure, had fallen into a state of disrepair that verged on the impious. If possible, the once handsome Rectory was in even worse condition. Worst of all, there was the only-

too-human danger that this dilapidation, through long familiarity, had become accepted as a matter of course and even as somehow attractive - an attitude that applies better to comfortable old lounging slippers than to a place where the Lord is worshipped and His work carried forward.

Fortunately, Father Albert's previous experience of Christian ministry, which in turn had been preceded by a career in business, had made him aware in a practical way that within the most deteriorated situations there is often a tensed spring of constructive effort waiting to be released. Assuming that to be the case in Christ Church Parish, he accepted the call and found he was right.

Among his first pastoral acts, for instance, was the performance of a wedding. The bride's father happened to be a building contractor. He and Father Alberts considered together the great need of both the Church and the Parish House for a thorough repointing. Though the general building boom of wartime had already begun, starting the cost of skill, time and materials skywards, the job was done for a fraction of normal costs.

And this was only the beginning: thanks to gifts of all sizes of money and effort, a general program of physical rehabilitation was begun. The Rectory began to be made livable. The lighting in the Church was modernized, bringing out the full beauty of the services and of the improved surroundings in which they are held.

Among these "surroundings" might be mentioned the addition of the unusual painting "The Crucifixion of St. Andrew" which adorns the North wall; the Gothic stencil work on each side of the handsome reredos and altar; the exquisite wood carving over the West door, executed by Mr. Thirsten Sigstedt, formerly Royal Carver to the King of Sweden; the interesting new memorial windows, and the fine interior generally.

Similarly, the exterior has been improved. The original roof was replaced, the sidewalks made safe, the approach to the church and the grounds have been beautified.

All this work has been made possible thru the benefactions of many persons, living and departed, who have given of their time, their talents, their possessions. To name them all would be beyond the scope of this brief sketch. To omit even one we would not want to do. Let it stand that their names are written in the Book of the Author of all things, and that we acknowledge ourselves as the beneficiaries of their devotion.

Before leaving the subject of "material" improvements, it is necessary to mention the new Parish House, to which many hands gave and on which many hands worked. In addition to housing our teeming Sunday School, it provides a home for many Parish activities, both work and play, that form such pleasant and useful parts of congregational life.

Such activities took on in the late war an impetus that has endured and even grown. During the hostilities themselves the emphasis was on the young people who directly and indirectly bear the brunt of modern warfare. Seventy-five Christ Church parishioners, both boys and girls, served with the colors. The Rector, assisted by "writing committees", kept in touch with each of them and helped them keep in touch with one another. At the principal Church services each week, each was prayed for by name.

The mission of the Parish to those overseas did not blind it to the obligation to those at home. Especially was concern felt for our high school children. These were old enough to feel the unhealthy excitement of war, but too young to be able to serve. The result was much restlessness, and, in the concern for those actually in the armed forces, they tended to be overlooked. To meet their need, the Rector set up a committee to establish The 'Teen Canteen. This provided dancing, games, snack bar and opportunity for supervised recreation. Over 500 boys and girls took part. In this useful endeavor were the roots from which came the present Media Boys' Club.

Also indicative of the Parish's revitalized concern for the young, who after all are the grown parishioners of tomorrow, are the large and active Sunday School and the "Family Eucharist" for its special benefit; the boys' and girls' choirs, and the Day School. It is hoped that in the future we may operate a full-time school through all the elementary grades at least. Meanwhile we do have a pre-school, and are charter members in the Episcopal Day Schools Association, which the Rector helped found.

In the midst of these and other activities, the Parish has been careful not "to live unto itself alone". Typical of its concern for the Church as a whole has been our support of the Church and her missions, and of the cause of theological education. All educational institutions have a hard time financially; seminaries have perhaps the hardest of all. Christ Church, despite its own limited resources, is among the nation's largest contributors per capita to the support of seminaries.

A parish is a microcosm of the whole Church. As the whole church is the Body of Christ, so the parish is part of the Body. Like any body it is made up of many members. These members differ in size, in activity, in ability. Yet each has a part to play which is peculiar to itself. We are humbly grateful for all those who have so nobly borne the brunt of the work for Christ's sake during the past century. As we enter the second century we are aware that we also enter a changing world. But we stand firm in faith and trust in Him who is above change and in whose continued service is our own and the world's peace. May He continue to guide us, and bless us every one.

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Rectors Serving Christ Church During the Past Century

Rev.	Samuel Hazelhurst, D.D.	1857-1857
	Henry S. Getz, D.D.	1857-1862
	Samuel Edwards	1863-1866
	Samuel W. Hallowell	1866-1872
	W. F. Chesley Morsell	1872-1874
	Edward Lounsbery	1875-1878
	DeWolf H. C. Byllesby	1879-1890
	Henry Dixon Jones	1890-1894
	Arnold J. Arnold	1894-1901
	William Reese Scott, D.D.	1902-1909
	Harry Ransome	1909-1929
	Howard Wells Fulweiler, B.S.	1929-1935
	Harvey D. Butterfield	1935-1941
	William J. Alberts	1941-

THE NEW WINDOWS

The two windows installed in connection with our 100th Anniversary have something of a history. When your Rector came to Media in 1941 he found a panel of stained glass on the premises. Nobody seemed to know much about it. It was of unusual design and seemed quite old. Further investigation revealed the date "1493" in one corner.

When the windows in the church needed a general overhauling, this panel was shown to Mr. Henry Willet whose studio was doing the work. Mr. Willet is a world famous authority on stained glass, having written the article on that subject in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Upon seeing the panel Mr. Willet ventured the opinion that while it probably was not actually as old as the date, there was the possibility that it actually may be a piece from Strasburg Cathedral and be authentic. At any rate it is an exquisite and unusual bit of craftmanship.

What we have done is to build two windows around it. The window on the Epistle Side (your right as you face the altar) is taken from the text "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God". It depicts God the Father sending forth the Word. Beneath the panel is the Annunciation. Here the Heavenly Messenger is bestowing the Word to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The theme here is "Behold the Handmaid of the Lord". On the Gospel Side, opposite, the text is, "And the Word was Made Flesh and dwelt among us". This is the scene of the Birth of our Lord. And the final panel shows the completion of the cycle with the Word, Incarnate in Jesus, returning to the Father and reigning in glory. This panel exquisite in its simplicity is the original panel of the four.

We hope you will like the windows which Mr. Willet has done in great beauty. The treatment is different and the texture of the figures unconventional in some ways, but all in all, while we know in advance that not all people will see them the same way, we feel they are a great addition to the beauty of this lovely parish church.

The windows are given in memory of the Clergy who have served this parish during the first century and for all who have worshipped here with us. The cost of the windows has been defrayed by small thank offerings given to the Rector over the years.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1954

11:00 A.M.

FESTIVAL CENTENNIAL EUCHARIST

Presiding: The Right Reverend Oliver J. Hart, S.T.D.
Bishop of Pennsylvania
Celebrant: The Rev. William J. Alberts, Rector
At the Organ: Harvey C. Heller

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Prelude ..... "Pax Vobiscum" ..... Edmundson
Processional Hymn ..... "Awake My Soul" ..... Hymn 151
Kyrie ..... "Missa de Angelis" ..... 12th Century
Collect & Epistle ..... Prayer Book pp. 210-11
Sequence: ..... Hymn 249
The Holy Gospel ..... Prayer Book p. 211*
The Creed ..... "Missa de Angelis"
The Sermon: ..... The Bishop
The Right Reverend Oliver J. Hart, S.T.D.
The Alms and Oblations (see note)
Offertory Anthem ..... John Huss
"Jesus Christ Our Strong Salvation"
Prayer for the Whole Church, etc. ..... Prayer Book pp. 74-78
Sanctus, Benedictus ..... "Missa de Angelis"
Consecration and Lord's Prayer ..... Prayer Book pp. 80-82
Agnus Dei ..... "O Lamb of God" ..... Missa de Angelis
Communion Hymn ..... Hymn 203
Thanksgiving ..... Prayer Book p. 83
Gloria in Excelsis ..... Missa de Angelis
The Blessing ..... The Bishop
Sevenfold Amen 741
Recessional Hymn ..... Hymn 564
Postlude

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* Immediately following the singing of the Holy Gospel, the Choir and Congregation will sing hymn 380. During the singing of this hymn, the Bishop, assisted by the Rector and acolytes, will go to the rear of the church where the newly installed windows will be unveiled and consecrated. The singing of the Nicene Creed will follow.

The Congregation is invited to a reception to the Bishop in the Parish House at the conclusion of the Service.

Note: We are requesting a generous currency thank offering to defray expenses incidental to the celebration of this 100th Anniversary.

One Hundredth Anniversary

D I N N E R

Tuesday, September 28th at 7 p.m.

Invocation ..... Fr. Alberts

..... Dinner .....

Introduction of Guests ..... Francis Austin

Address ..... The Very Reverend Peter Van der Heil
Dean, Convocation of Chester

Benediction ..... Fr. Alberts

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1954

RECITAL

Rev. John R. Wilkens, Organ - Joyce M. J. Newell, Soprano

1.

Zechiel, Ernest

Chorale Preludes:

1. Lord, How Great Are My Transgressions
2. The Night Descendeth

Pachelbel, Johann

Chorale Preludes:

1. How Bright Appears the Morning Star
2. O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin

Purcell, Henry

Trumpet Voluntary

2.

Die Mainacht (The May Night) - Johannes Brahms
Ave Maria (Hail, Mary) - Franz Schubert

3.

Bach, Johann Sebastian

Chorale Preludes:

1. All Glory, Laud and Honor
2. O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded

Toccata & Fugue in D Minor

4.

My Lovely Celia (Old English) - Munro
Danny Boy - Traditional
Comin' Through the Rye - Traditional

5.

Titcomb, Everett

Allaluia, Christ our Passover Is Sacrificed For Us.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1954

11:00 P.M.

RE-DEDICATION EUCHARIST

Celebrant: The Rev. William J. Alberts, Rector
At the Organ: Harvey C. Heller

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Prelude ..... Canon Variations ..... Dubois
Processional Hymn ..... Hymn 563
Kyrie ..... Bach
Collect & Epistle ..... Prayer Book p. 212
Sequence ..... Hymn 249
The Holy Gospel ..... Prayer Book pp. 212-13
The Creed ..... Chant
The Sermon ..... The Rector
The Alms and Oblations
Offertory Anthem ....."Behold Now, Praise the Lord".....Titcomb
Prayer for the Whole Church, etc. ....Prayer Book pp. 74-78
Sanctus, Benedictus ..... Bach
Consecration and Lord's Prayer..... Prayer Book pp. 80-82
Agnus Dei ..... Bach
Communion Hymn ..... Hymn 203
Thanksgiving ..... Prayer Book p. 83
Gloria in Excelsis ..... Chant - 739
The Blessing ..... Fr. Alberts
Sevenfold Amen 741
Recessional Hymn ..... Hymn 570
Postlude ..... "Cortege de Cardinaux" ..... Barton

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PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

The Rev. William J. Alberts, Rector
Charles H. Heller, Organist & Choirmaster
John Kent, Sexton

Vestry

Charles W. Newall, Rector's Warden
Francis R. Austin, Accounting Warden
William Tidball, Secretary
Henry Beck
Charles Greene
Frank Griffin
Andrew Schroder
E. Leroy van Roden
Paul Woodrow

Woman's Auxiliary

Mrs. Ellwood Sweet, President
Mrs. Walter Gay, Vice-President
Mrs. Ernest Messikomer, Recording Secretary
Mrs. Fred Fish, Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. William Wasche, Treasurer

Altar Guild

Miss Mildred Dallett, President
Mrs. William Wasche, Treasurer
Miss Madeleine Patton, Flower Chairman

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Harold F. White

Mary-Martha Guild

Mrs. Francis Austin, President
Mrs. Harold White, 1st Vice-President
Mrs. Aubrey Vernon, 2nd Vice-President
Mrs. George Cornelius, Secretary
Mrs. Anthony Baker, Treasurer

Girls Friendly Society

Adelade Reynolds
Alma Harter
Ann Ringbloom
Alice Algard

Acolytes

Mr. Roy Wilson

Couples Club

J. B. Calvert, President
William Lawson, Vice-President
Doris Vernon, Secretary-Treasurer

Sunday School

The Rector - Superintendent
D. Lincoln Harter, Ass't Superintendent
Alma Harter, Supt. Primary Department
Mildred Schroder, Supt. Pre-Primary Dept.
Henry Beck, Secretary-Treasurer

Day School

Mrs. D. Lincoln Harter